

NSC BRIEFING

6 JUNE 1956

FRANCE AND ALGERIA

1. Premier Mollet has won his vote of confidence from the French Assembly on his government's policies (271 to 59, with 201 abstaining). This reduction in Mollet's support is due almost entirely to Communist abstention en bloc (150) as a result of Mollet's insistence on a single vote covering all government policies.

A. In his pre-vote speech to the Assembly, Mollet stated that Algeria's links with France are "indissoluble," that the election of Algerian representatives will take place three months after pacification, and that the government is about to proceed with economic, social and administrative "reforms".

B. Mollet stressed the "pacification and reform" approach (as opposed pre-pacification negotiation)--an approach which the right-center finds acceptable, but which the Communists and many Socialists consider mistaken.

C. Meanwhile, Algerian Minister Lacoste is reportedly working on some new form of "association" for Algeria, to follow pacification.

2. The large-scale French offensive, launched on 30 May in the Kabylie mountain region (between Algiers and Constantine), was apparently timed to support the government's position in the Assembly debate.

A. Press reports [redacted] claim heavy rebel casualties and a major French victory.

25X1

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

25X1

[REDACTED]

B. This success, even if substantiated, is not enough to break the nationalist uprising, since the rebels continue to control large areas of the mountainous countryside in the departments of Constantine and Bone, as well as the region around Tlemcen in Western Oran.

25X1

D. Closer to the scene, we have received conflicting claims of Moroccan and Tunisian involvement in Algeria [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] **the rebels are getting extensive aid in terms of weapons, men and supplies and that up to 3,000 Moroccans were helping the rebels around Tlemcen and Marnia.**

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